

**GILFORD SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC HEARING  
MONDAY JANUARY 6, 2020  
GILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
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**The Gilford School Board held a public hearing on Monday January 6, 2020 at the Gilford High School Library. Present were Board members Gretchen Gandini, Jeanin Onos, Rae Mello-Andrews, and Karen Thurston. Administrators present were Kirk Beitler, Scott Isabelle, Anthony Sperazzo, Peter Sawyer, Danielle Bolduc, and Brenda McGee. Gilmanton Board members present were Adam Mini, Michelle Heyman, Johnna McKenna, and Malcolm MacLeod. Present were, Gilmanton Superintendent John Fauci, Attorney Dean Eggert and Attorney Robert Casassa.**

**Opening**

School Board Vice-Chair Gretchen Gandini called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Superintendent Beitler confirmed posting of the meeting. Gretchen Gandini led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gretchen Gandini, Jeanin Onos and Karen Thurston were nominated by Rae Mello-Andrews to represent the Joint Review Board for the Area Committee. All were approved. Gilmanton members appointed were Adam Mini, Michelle Heyman, and Malcolm MacLeod.

Gretchen called the Joint Review Board to order. Gretchen Gandini was nominated by Adam Mini to be the chair of the Review Board; Karen Thurston seconded. Motion passed. Karen Thurston nominated Adam Mini to be the Gilmanton co-chair; Jeanin Onos seconded. Motion passed.

**Gilford/Gilmanton Area Agreement**

**Amended and renegotiated authorized regional enrollment area plan between the school districts of Gilford and Gilmanton.**

This agreement is entered into pursuant to Chapter 195-A of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated, as amended, by the school Districts of Gilford and Gilmanton.

Superintendent Beitler spoke about the history of the Area Agreement, stating that we have parents in both communities who graduated from this high school and whose children now attend this school. The programs have thrived with parents and volunteers from both of these communities. Two board members from each town, with the superintendents, have met to amend the current Agreement to create a new Agreement, especially regarding the area of Special Education. Tuition has been clearly outlined with how the tuition is calculated. Continuing, Mr. Beitler stated that the extension of the Area Agreement connects the communities through the school year 2034-2035. This creates consistency for parents in the community. Mr. Beitler's experience has been very positive between him and Mr. Fauci. Mr. Beitler is very pleased with the working relationship formulated over the last four years.

Mr. Fauci spoke on the strength of the Agreement and the relationship between the two communities. He sees the continuation of the Agreement as a positive that benefits all of our students.

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**Public Comment**

Elizabeth Brullotte – Gilmanton, asked how the twelve years was decided upon. Adam Mini said it was set in increments of four years. Mr. Mini said that it was negotiated for the twelve. She asked about the bonding by Gilford for the locker rooms, how much it is for, and when it will be voted on. Mr. Beitler said it is in our capital improvement plan and will not be in this March's warrant and will be in 2023-2024 budget. Mr. Beitler said it would cost \$874,000 and will be for the main facility at GHS, not at the Meadows facility.

Gretchen Gandini noted that this is only a meeting on the Area Agreement, not on individual articles at this time. Ms. Bruillotte commented that this is a large bond to be taking on.

There were no further comments. Public comments closed.

Michelle Heyman made the following motion: "I move that the Board make the following findings:

- 1) That the continued maintenance and renewal of the AREA Agreement for a term of twelve (12) years is in the best interest of both Districts, allowing for better curricular and educational opportunity for both Districts, while benefiting from an economy of scale;
- 2) That amendment to the existing and renewed AREA is appropriate in order to update the legal obligations of both Districts and to more accurately reflect the formula used by the Districts for calculating the student tuition and bond payment; and
- 3) That proceeding forward with these amendments and renewal of the AREA at the annual meeting of both Districts will afford the citizens of both Districts the opportunity to determine whether they wish to maintain the educational and financial relationship between the two Districts."

Karen Thurston seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Michelle Heyman made the following motion:

"I move that the Joint Board recommend and approve moving forward with the proposed amendment and renewal of the AREA Agreement and further recommend that, subject to State Board approval, both Districts place the amendments and renewal of the AREA for a term of twelve (12) years, three and a half months, commencing on March 15, 2023 and expiring on June 30, 2035, on their respective warrant for approval."

Jeanin Onos seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Motion was made at 6:14 p.m. by Adam Mini to adjourn the meeting; Karen Thurston seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jeanin Onos  
School Board Secretary**